

Fast Facts

Trigeminal neuralgia

- Trigeminal nerve provides sensation from your face to your brain
 - Also called tic douloureux
- Occurs when trigeminal nerve isn't working correctly
- Typically caused by pressure being placed on the trigeminal nerve from a blood vessel (artery or vein)
 - Can also be the result of aging or related to conditions/injuries that damage the nerves
 - More likely to appear in those over 50 and affects women more than men
 - People with the condition will have excruciating pain from even mild stimulation
- Initially, the attacks are mild and short, but they can progress into longer, more frequent occurrences
- Triggers can include shaving, eating, drinking, touching your face, brushing your teeth, talking, putting on makeup, smiling, washing your face, and encountering a breeze

<i>Symptoms</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Prevention</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Episodes of severe/shooting/jabbing pain that may feel like an electric shock -Spontaneous attacks of pain -Bouts of pain lasting from a few seconds to several minutes -Episodes of several attacks lasting days, weeks, months, or longer (some people have periods when they have no pain) -Constant aching/burning feeling that happens before it evolves into the spasm-like pain -Pain in areas supplied by the trigeminal nerve (ex. cheek, jaw, teeth, gums, lips, or less often the eye and forehead) -Pain affecting one side of the face at a time (rarely affects both sides of the face) -Pain focused in one spot or spread in a broader pattern -Attacks that become more frequent and intense over time 	<p><i>Anticonvulsants:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -carbamazepine -oxcarbazepine -lamotrigine -phenytoin -clonazepam -gabapentin <p><i>Antispasmodic agents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -baclofen (used alone or in combination with carbamazepine) -Botox injections <p><i>Surgery:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Microvascular decompression -Brain stereotactic radiosurgery -Rhizotomy --Glycerol injections --Balloon compression --Radiofrequency thermal lesioning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reduce frequency of attacks by being aware of triggers and avoiding them -Seek support from a group or counseling

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